

Mr. HOYER. And NASA next, either late Tuesday or Wednesday or even Thursday depending on how long the Foreign Relations Reauthorization Act takes?

Mr. DELAY. That is correct, Wednesday or Thursday.

Mr. HOYER. And the PATRIOT Act would be on Thursday and/or Friday?

Mr. DELAY. That is correct.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Leader, the highway bill, we have discussed trying to reauthorize the highway bill, and both sides feel it is important to get it through. We have had the 8th extension, and that expires this coming Tuesday. Can the leader shed some light on the status of the conference?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is correct. The highway bill is, as we all know, an incredibly important bill. It is an important jobs bill. It is important for the infrastructure of this country. Maybe that is why it is taking so long to do this. But the conference on the highway bill is slowly rolling along. Compromises are being made in some key areas. I am optimistic that a conference report can be ready maybe even next week, but certainly be ready in the next 2 weeks.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader for that information. The information I have is the eighth extension ends Tuesday. It is not on the list, but would it be the gentleman's expectation that we would have another short-term extension?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I would refer to the chairman on that. I do not want to preclude what position the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure would be in to make that decision. If we had to do an extension, certainly we would fit it in between debates on the major bills we will be doing next week.

Mr. HOYER. Obviously, the problem is, as the leader well knows, if there is a gap of authorization existing in law, it has adverse consequences obviously on existing projects or the possibility of pursuing existing projects. I would hope if we cannot get to conference, which would be probably impossible by next Tuesday, we would have an extension so that would not cause anybody any problem in the contracting field.

Mr. Leader, it is my understanding that the CAFTA legislation, a very important piece of legislation, is not on the calendar for next week. Would it be the expectation of the leader that the CAFTA legislation would be on the last week we are in session?

Mr. DELAY. As the gentleman knows, the Senate has passed CAFTA. The Committee on Ways and Means has marked it up. I expect that the House will vote on it before we adjourn for the August recess. I just do not know when that will be.

Mr. HOYER. But the gentleman is confident at least it will not be next week?

Mr. DELAY. I am pretty confident it will not be next week; that is correct.

Mr. HOYER. The last two pieces of legislation, there has been a lot of talk and a lot of newspaper coverage about both campaign finance reform and possible Social Security and/or pension or Social Security pension legislation. Can the leader tell us whether there is anticipation on your side of the aisle that we will be considering either one of those or both? Campaign finance, I know there are two separate pieces of legislation, Pence-Wynn and Shays-Meehan, pending. Will either one of those subjects, do you think, be on the calendar prior to the July 28 recess date?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman continuing to yield, and I assume the gentleman will ask another question about Social Security, so I will take campaign finance first.

There is a lot of negotiations that need to be held on both the Shays-Meehan bill and the Pence-Wynn bill. In my opinion, they are not ripe yet. I do not see that they will get any riper between now and the August break.

Mr. HOYER. That is a good way to put it. I will then ask about the Social Security and/or pension or combination thereof. There was some talk it might be before recess. Now we have read some comments it might not be until September. Can the leader shed some light on the majority's view when that will come forward?

Mr. DELAY. As the gentleman knows, the Committee on Ways and Means has had a number of hearings on Social Security and retirement security in general. In addition, the Committee on Education and the Workforce passed a bill relating to a number of issues related to defined benefit pension plans before the July 4th district work period. There are additional ideas related to retirement savings building support within this House. I expect that the House will focus on these issues in the fall.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Majority Leader for that information.

#### ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 18, 2005 AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates; and, further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in

order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, following up on the colloquy of our colleagues, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), I would like to announce that the Committee on Rules may meet next week to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005. The Committee on the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence ordered the bill reported on July 13. Both committees are expected to file their reports with the House by Monday, July 18.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in H-312 of the Capitol by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19. Members should be advised that a combined text from the committees of jurisdiction should be available for their review on the committees' websites and on the Committee on Rules website by tomorrow, Friday, July 15.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to ensure that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3070, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of July 18 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 3070, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005. The Committee on Science ordered the bill reported today and is expected to file its report with the House on Monday, July 18.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in H-312 of the Capitol by 12 noon on Tuesday, July 19.